Effective Jan Living

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Effective Christian Living.

Gal.5:25 If we live by the Spirit, by the Spirit let us also walk.
As we live by the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit.

INTROM A great preacher's failure at a state's prison service.

Dead End

Where a street in a metropolis, teeming withall forms of beaten and degraded humanity, runs dead against the rotting piles and wharves of the river and stops it from crawling its crowded way out into the river.

Where two extreme kinds of life turn their backs against each other-the ultra rich and the ultra poor.

A picture of opposing forces that makes the democratic ideal an impossible dream

A picture of the helplessness of a personality trying to better conditions where such opposing forces battle against each other.

Also a picture of the spiritual truth that unless those involved in the play of such forces find and follow better ways than the ones they hold they are doomed.

Dead End is a picture of the spiritual truth that no man can do too much, give too much, love too much for the Christ who said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."

The Ebb Tides of History.

Civilizations are subject to the ebb and flow of spiritual and cultural tides. The tide goes outcarring with it great faiths and creative enthusiasms. Then in the little harbors on the shores of life where men once looked out to fair horisons there is revealed the slimy, spawning moss from which corruptions begets its kind.

William A. Keith writes:

In a world such as ours today what can we Xns do to make our Xn living and influence effective?

Thank God, we have rediscovered and are putting the emphasis upon the social Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have come to realize that religion means something for all areas of life and has to do with the whole life of all humanity. We believe that if religion ends with the individual it ends.

But ~~t~~is equally true that unless religion begins with the individual it does not begin at all. Personal commitment is the beginning of all vital religion.

In this world of dead ends and ebb tide, we are confronted with the breakdown of Xn living. Perhaps you have in mind the great upheavals of intellectual life that have smashed our creeds to pieces and plunged many into disbelief. But our churches are still full of people who still hold to the essential principles of Jesus Christ. And yet we are living "shoddy, low-graded Christian lives" as Fosdick declares.

The trouble with us Xns is not with our beliefs, but with our conduct. We believe the Gospel, but we do not follow it. We worship God but we do not obey Him. We desire to be Xn but we do not take the trouble and time to develop a technique of practice that keeps us in good Xn shape.

I believe it was Paderewski who said, "I f I dont practice for one day, I notice it, if I dont practice for two days, my friends notice it; if I dont practice for three days, my audiences notice it;" and if I dont practice for a friends week, my audiences notice it."

This represents a universal law of life. No success in any line is achieved without due regard to the technique governing that line. Christian living is no exception. No soul can be developed spiritually by neglecting the means of grace provided for its development-the technique of Xn living and practice, if you please.